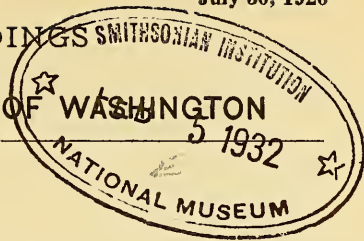


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PROCEEDINGS
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A NEW GENUS AND SPECIES OF GROUND WARBLER
FROM THE PROVINCE OF SZECHWAN, CHINA.

BY J. H. RILEY.¹

Among the fine lot of birds sent to the U. S. National Museum by the Rev. David C. Graham is a small series of skins of a ground warbler from Mount Omei, 3500-4000 feet, related to *Oligura*, but belonging to an apparently undescribed genus. This bird may be described as follows:

Antiornis, gen. nov.

Similar to *Oligura* Hodgson, especially in the wing formula, but tail proportionally longer, reaching to about the tip of the outstretched feet, the outer tail-feather falling short of the tip of the longest one by about the length of the middle-toe and claw, instead of having the tail only slightly rounded and the outstretched feet reaching beyond the tip for more than length of the middle-toe and claw; nostril an oblong slit overhung by an operculum, instead of elliptical oval without an operculum; feathering on the forehead extending forward on each side of the maxilla to about the middle of the narial opening instead of having the nostrils entirely clear of the frontal antiae; feet weaker.

Type, the following:

Antiornis grahami, sp. nov.

Type, male, U. S. National Museum, No. 303,857, Mount Omei, 3,500 feet, Szechwan, China, August 25, 1924. Collected by David C. Graham.

Above saccardo olive, slightly darker on the head and lighter on the cheeks; lores and region round the eye slightly darker than the pileum; a supra-oral spot, olive-lake; lower-parts from the chin to and including the belly, deep colonial buff; under tail-coverts, chamois; flanks with a slight olive wash; upper tail-coverts, dark olive-buff; tail, dark olive, the feathers edged with buffy citrine; wings, dark olive, the feathers edged on the outer web with the color of the back; under wing-coverts, deep

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colonial buff, becoming whitish on the greater series; remiges below, hair brown, margined basally with whitish on the inner webs. Wing, 48; tail, 38; culmen, 11.5; tarsus, 20.5; middle-toe, 10.5 mm.

Remarks.—*Antiornis* shows a certain superficial resemblance to *Neornis* Blyth, but differs as follows: the primaries are broader and the first proportionally longer, the tail proportionally shorter and the feathers narrower, the general plumage softer and more lax.

There has been some discussion by recent authors as to whether *Oligura* Hodgson (type as fixed by Gray, 1847, *Sylvia castaneocoronata* Burton) is generically distinct from *Tesia* Hodgson (type as fixed by Gray, 1840, *Tesia cyaniventer* Hodgson), but an examination of the bill in the two genera clearly shows them to be separable. *Tesia* has a rather broad flat bill, the nostril an oblong slit overhung by an operculum, the feathers of the frontal antiae extending forward beyond the posterior border of the narial opening; while in *Oligura*, the bill is narrower and more slender, the nostril elliptical oval without an operculum and entirely clear of the feathers of the forehead. These differences are shown by Oates (Fauna Brit. India, Birds, vol. 1, 1889, pp. 192–193, figs. 57, 58).

The wing formula in *Antiornis* is nearly the same as in *Oligura*, except the primaries are broader. First primary about three-fourths as long as the second; fifth and sixth sub-equal and longest. The nostril is like *Tesia*, but the bill is more compressed. In the proportionally longer tail, with shorter outer feather, and weaker feet, *Antiornis* is unlike either *Oligura* or *Tesia*, but is very closely allied. It probably inhabits bushes or grass, on or near the ground.

Stuart Baker (Fauna Brit. India, Birds, 2d ed., vol. 1, 1922, p. 462) places *Tesia* (with which he unites *Oligura*), with some doubt, in the family Troglodytidae. It seems to me *Tesia*, *Oligura*, *Pseudoxenicus*, and *Antiornis* are really ground-inhabiting warblers, Sylviidae.

It gives me great pleasure to dedicate the above species to the collector as a slight recognition of the important work he has done in Szechwan.

I am indebted to Mr. Outram Bangs of the Museum of Comparative Zoology for the loan of a series of *Neornis flavolivaceus intricatus*.